BOOKS AND AUTHORS REVIEWS AND COMMENT

LITERARY CRITICISM AND BOOK NEWS

Colonel Roosevelt's Narrative of His South American Travels-The Everyman Encyclopedia -- Mrs. Taft's Book.

whose depiction he has at his com- woods-a feat of exploration which mand a palette full of words of all caused a sensation among geographers colors and shades. His interest in ani- when it was first announced, and which, mal life is insatiable, and here, too, he makes us his eager companions in his need it be said that the explorer pays pages. In brief, to follow him into the his compliments in these pages, briefly

and forcibly, to Mr. Savage Landor, against whom, by the way, Colonel Rondon has made official charges? But Your Success there is much else in this book to awaken our interest and hold it, of greater value to the majority of us, to whom, after all, a new river in a dis-

and bristling with the present advanced vidual development.

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"THE RIVER OF DOUBT"
(FROM THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S "THROUGH THE BRAZILIAN WILDERNESS":

Most of the birds I thus noticed were, of course, the conspicuous ones. The spurred lapwings, big, tame, boldly marked plover, were everywhere; they were very noisy and active, and both inquisitive and daring, and they have a very curious dance custom. No man need look for them. They will look for him, and when they find him they will fairly yell the discovery to the universe. In the marshes of the lower Parans I saw flocks of scarlet-headed black-birds on the tops of the reeds; the females are as strikingly colored as the males, and their jet-black hodies and brilliant red heads make it impossible for them to escape observation among their natural surroundings. On the plains to the west I saw flocks of lings; unlike the red-headed black-birds, which seemed fairly to court attention, these starlings sought to attention, these starlings sought to escape observation by crouching on the ground so that their red breasts were hidden. There were yellow-shouldered blackbirds in wet places, and cow-buntings abounded.

breasts were hidden. There were yellow-shouldered blackbirds in wet places, and cow-buntings abounded.

Of course, the Colonel seizes this opportunity to renew his scientific quartel with the "ultra-concealing-colorationists," as he calls them in a formidable compound word of truly Teutonic aspect. In South America, he says, concealing coloration plays no more part in the lives of big game, the adult deer, the tamandun, the tapir, the peccary, the juguar and the puma than it plays in Africa in the lives of such animals as the zebra, the sable antelope, the wildebeest, the lion and the hunting hyens. "Evidently the other factors in species survival, such as habit, and in many cases cover, etc. are of such overwhelming importance that the coloration becomes negligible from this standpoint, whether it be concealing or revealing."

There are, of course, observations by

stood on either hand as we steamed steadily against the swirling current of the great river.

The illustrations are all that could possibly be desired; there are two maps, of which one shows the entire itinerary of the expedition, while the other is of the River of Doubt, now called by direction of the Brazilian government the Rio Téodoro. The appendices deal (A) with the work of the field zoologist and field geographer in

shardships encountered, or the printing five conditions of the life of naives and Indians, of the widerness and its faun—its atmosphere of adventure.

There are tales here of caymans and bloodhirsty fishes, of the hunt of peccarists, ant-esters, capibaras and manched and of a harmless one that kills them, the masurama, as interesting as the changes have the counts here of strategy pets adopted by members of the expedition; tales of the greater dangers of the wilderness of mosquitoes and flies and gnats, of poisonous ants and ticks, and of the wilderness of mosquitoes and flies and gnats, of poisonous ants and ticks, and of the fevers they bring; of dysentry and the shadow of starvation and sudden death in turbulent rapids. And amidst it all, one comes upon such charming passages as this:

Most of the birds I thus noticed were, of course, the conspicuous ones. The sparred lanywings, because of the every powers and service, and both inquisitive and adring, and they have a very every low; and service, they were very noisy and services; they were very noisy and services they were very noisy and services they were very noisy and services. The sparred lanywings, the constitution of the fact that befell them.

Most of the birds I thus noticed were, of course, the conspicuous ones. The sparred lanywings, because of the language of the serve among their country and services and services and services and services of the language of the lang

The changing aspect of Paris, the disappearance of men from her streets, her quiet evenings, the revival of religious feeling as seen in the crowded attendance at hirches; the transformation of race courses and the Bois mation of race courses and the Bois into reserves for cattle and sheep; the appearance of German aeroplanes turned into an afternoon diversion of the boulevards—all this is depicted. Througheat there is perceptible a spirit of determination to see this war through to the end, accompanied, ac-

There are, of course, observations by the way on all kinds of topics—the development of South America, the need than perfunctory notice and comment, of education among its inhabitants in These twelve duodecimo volumes are the remote districts, the utter disre-gard of color lines. Of two compan-tions on a day's hunt the Colonel ob-greater cost and wider scope; they serves that the one was nearly white, seek and on the whole deserve to find, the other nearly black, and of the two a field of service of their own; and the black was the better man by far. they merit, and amply repay, consider-There is only one line of demarcation in the wilder and poorer districts, that between Christians and Indians; and the Indian ceases to be one in popular estimation the moment he gets haptized. Anti-militarists take notice: "It is worth while to ponder the fact that in every South American country where a really efficient army is developed the increase in military efficiency goes hand in hand with a decrease in law-lessness and disorder and a growing reluctance to settle internal disagreements by violence."

Colonel Roosevelt makes light of the illness that befell him at the end of his trip. Fortunately, he says, it did not become serious until the last of the rapids of the river had been passed, and only canoe-riding remained. One more quotation—a brief one—once more illustrating his gift of description, and we have done with this interesting book:

On this day we got into the tropics. Even in the heat of the day the deck was pleasant under the awnings; the sun rose and set in crimson splendor, and the nights, with the moon at the full, were wonderful. At night Orion blazed overhead; and the Southern Crosshung in the star-brilliant heavens behind us. But after the moon rose the constellations paled, and clear in her light the tree-clad banks stood on either hand as we steamed steadily against the swirling current of the great river.

The wonderful the fact that in the limits of purpose and usefulness set for them by editor and usefulness set for them by editor and usefulness set for them by editor and publishers—those of a work of ready reference for everyday use by laymen. Only constant consultation can fully determine the merits and the short-comings of an encyclopeadia; the short-comings of an encyclopeadia; the sort-comings of an encyclopeadia; the sort-comings of an encyclopeadia; the short-comings of an encyclope There is only one line of demarcation ation within the limits of purpose and in the wilder and poorer districts, that

a young physician who saved the soul of his patient when he found that his bodily ills were incurable.

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20 lines that lead out vote the against of success and a world of suggestion to guard your against the passes and a world of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard you region through shifts and the substitute of the collection of specimens of the collection of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard your against the passes and sworld of suggestion to guard you region through shifts and the substitute of the collection of suggestion to guard your against the passes and suggestion to guard your against the passes and suggestion to guard you region that lead down to hopeless failure. Send for this wonders that lead out town to hopeless failure. Send for this wonders that lead out town to hopeless failure. Send for this wonders the passes are all significant to the success and a world of suggestion to guard you region the passes and a world of suggestion to guard you region the passes and suggestion to guard you region of the visual that the passes are the passes and suggestion to

and close his argument with there average layman in search of immediate enlightenment.

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The repertal was especially interesting to have the fillippine government might be assured by a neutralization agreement between the government of Europe and that of the United States. Some of them are beginning to have the serious designing to the serious design

tary governor of Formosa:

The general was especially interested in Mr. Taft because he conceived that in the Philippines we had a parallel for their Formosan troubles. He grew quite confidential, telling Mr. Taft many things about the Japanese administration of Formosan affairs. He ended by saying:

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Filinform the utter impracticability of maintaining expectations that the continued existence of an independent Philippine government might be assured by a neutralization agreement between the governments of Europe and that of the United States, some of them are beginning to have the courage to say openly what they have long felt in their hearts and have often said privately; namely, that their only in their hearts and have often said privately; namely, that their only hope for the future is in the continued maintenance of the sovertheir beautiful islands. I have always believed that long before the peoples of our far Eastern possession had been welded into one this feeling would have become well nigh universal, and the present trend of events confirms that conclusion.

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